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SECRET

BERLIN (FM MEETING)
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In a meeting of the Interdepartmental Coordinating Group on
June 22, 1959, Mr. Murphy raised the question of the feasibility of
agreeing, as part of a negotiated settlement regarding Berlin, to a
reduction in the number of the Allied Forces stationed in Berlin.

BERCON D-1 had been distributed before the meeting as a contribu-
tion to the discussion.

The principal points which emerged from the discussion are the
following:

Although examination of the possibilities of a force reduction
must take place without any precise idea of what the Soviets would
offer in return, any reduction found to be possible would only take
place in exchange for Soviet actions which would assure a satisfactory
modus vivendi in Berlin.

The initial approach to the problem is to define the mission of
our forces in Berlin and then to determine what the minimum number to
carry out this mission would be.

The possible effect of a reduction on the morale of the Berlin
population and of the forces themselves is a very important factor.

Suggestions which might be explored include the reduction of
the number of intelligence personnel, a reduction of the British and
French forces only, and an increase of the para-military forces of
the West Berlin policy (Bereitschaftspolizei).

①

EUR:GER:GPA:TD McKiernan.

The stronger

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The stronger the force available in the event of an attack, the longer it would take the attackers to overrun West Berlin and the easier it would be to demonstrate Communist aggression.

The presence of Allied Forces also helps to stabilize the fundamentally dangerous situation in Berlin.

The military aspects of the question will be given further study by Defense and the JCS.

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S/S- Mr. R. Miller

Bob:

Mr. Murphy has
cleared the attached and has
no objection to distribution
to participants

Bob T

Secret attachment

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